

Message Text

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TAGS: XG, PINT, PO, GW, SW, AU

SUBJECT: PALME, BRANDT, KREISKY COMMENTS ON PORTUGAL, SOCIALIST
RELATIONS WITH COMMUNISTS, AND SI PRESIDENCY

1. SWEDISH, GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERS
HELD TELEVISED ROUNDTABLE WITH PRESS IN VIENNA ON MAY 25
IN WHICH THEY DISCUSSED PORTUGAL AND RELATIONS BETWEEN
EUROPE'S DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS. PRIME
MINISTER PALME, EX-CHANCELLOR BRANDT, AND CHANCELLOR
KREISKY WERE MEETING TO EDIT JOINTLY-AUTHORED BOOK ON
SOCIALISM IN POSTWAR WORLD. BRANDT ALSO DISCUSSED
PRESIDENCY OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL (SI) IN SEPARATE
INTERVIEW.

2. PORTUGAL. PALME AND BRANDT SAID INTERFERENCE IN
STRUGGLE OF PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS WAS NOT RPT NOT NOW
ADVISABLE, BUT THEY AND KREISKY AGREED THAT OPEN
EXPRESSION OF MORAL SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY OF EUROPE'S
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL. KREISKY
SAID DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL WERE MOST SIGNIFICANT FOR
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SPAIN, WHERE SOCIALISTS ENJOYED QUASI-LEGITIMATE

STATUS. BRANDT THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE THAT SPAIN COULD YET AVOID PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY PORTUGAL.

3. SOCIALIST/COMMUNIST RELATIONS. KREISKY DECLARED THAT "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM IS VERY OPPOSITE OF COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP," AND HE AND BRANDT AGREED WITH PALME THAT THERE COULD BE NO COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPE'S DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS AND THE COMMUNIST PARTIES, ONLY UNDERSTANDINGS WITH COMMUNIST-GOVERNED STATES. PALME SAID THAT WESTERN COMMUNIST PARTIES' ONLY CHANCE OF SURVIVAL WAS TO LIBERALIZE.

4. SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. BRANDT, WHOM SEVERAL AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST LEADERS HAVE SUGGESTED AS REPLACEMENT FOR AILING SI PRESIDENT PITTERMANN, DID NOT QUITE RULE HIMSELF OUT AS SI PRESIDENT BUT TOLD QUESTIONERS THAT TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS OF FUTURE SI PRESIDENT DID NOT FIT WELL WITH DUTIES OF SPD CHAIRMAN. BRANDT SAID NEW FORMS OF COOPERATION MUST BE FOUND WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN AFRICAN, ASIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN LANDS AS WELL AS WITH GROUPS IN AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND TRADE UNIONS WHO CALL THEMSELVES SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. BRANDT SAID SPD OCCUPIED HIM FULLY BUT THAT DID NOT MEAN HE FORESAW NO ACTIVE ROLE FOR HIMSELF IN WORK OF SI. BUCHANAN

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